[Now First Published.]

VENGEANCE.

BY COMMANDER V. L. CAMERON, R. N., C. B., Author of "THE CRUISE OF THE BLACK PRINCE," "IN SAVAGE AFRICA," "THE LOG OF A JACK TAR," "AMONG THE TURKS." Etc.

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PART II.

Suddenly a voice rang out clear and loud, asking who we were and what was our business? "Friends." I answered. "Curious to come disturbing people at night. Why. what do you wish?"

his entertainment on board the Alligator that he has yielded to the entreaties of his host and allowed us to come ashore to invite you all on board to join in the fun. It is rare sport; there is a puncheon of rum on deck, with the head knocked out, and you can swim in liquor.

"Souza never sent such a message as that. He knows it is all we can do to keep the black cattle we have here from escaping, and there are gentes braves lurking round who would come and carry off everything if we only gave them the chance. No, unless Souza comes and gives us the order himself, we will not admit a soul until daylight comes."

"Oh, as for that, Sonza is so well content with his lodging and entertainment that he won't move, you may be sure of that; and as you won't come aboard or take us in we must even climb your stockade and force ourselves upon your care, for we can't stand parleying here in the swamp all night."

Before an answer could be returned the drink-maddened mob who were with me rushed at the stockade and attempted to scale it. Frenzied as were their essays to force an entrance, for long they availed nothing against the steady resistance of the defenders of the stockade, and twice or thrice we had to retire amid the shouts and jeers of our opponents, when, at last, unfortunately for them, thinking we were thoroughly beaten and discomfited, they opened their gates to make a sally upon us, at the same time loosing six Cuban bloodhounds.

In the melee which ensued our superior numbers told, and we managed to force our way inside the stockade, a struggling mass of men and dogs, and soon fresh horrors were added to the scene, for the thatched roofs of the houses caught fire and many of the wretched slaves who were chained and cooped up so that they had no possibility to escape were burned to death, many even of those who were fighting for the pos-session of their poor creatures fell wounded into the flames and perished miserably, unregarded by their comrades, who, finshed with heat of combat and lust of blood, fought on, recking of nothing save how to quickest slay their adversaries.

At last the rays of the rising sun enabled us to see what we were really doing, and I heard the shouts of Wilmshurst and more men from the schooners, who, having accomplished their part of the task, were now coming to our aid.

The defenders of the stockade were now reduced to but some half-dozen wounded men, grimed by smoke and battle, while of those who had landed with me over a score had perished, and not one save myself had come through scathless, I had been always in the thickest of the fight, but neither shot nor steel, tooth of hound nor flame had injured me, and my fellows welcomed this as a sign that I was indeed favored by the devil, and that under me their wicked undertakings would always

Wilmshurst's arrival put an end to the

struggle. The few survivors of those who

had so long and so bravely opposed us were pistoled or poniarded and tossed into the burning ruins, and then we began to turn our attention to the slaves, the booty for which we had fought. I will not harrow the reader's mind with a description of the scene of horrors presented in the barrastray shots, some had died of fear or extrampled to death by their fellows in their vain efforts to escape. Some stood huddled together quaking with fear, and few had escaped into the woods and swamps. After collecting our own wounded and sending them on board, we set to work to hunt up the slaves who had escaped, and a fresh caravan of eaptives coming down from the interior, we were soon able to fill the holds of the Alligator and the Lucy Bates. Meanwhile, so many of our men had died of the wounds they had received, and from fever generated by the miasma of the foul were surround that we found that we had scarce enough left to navigate these two, and determined. after taking all that was of value out of the Santa Caterina and sending down her upper masts, to haul her into the creek and leave her there to be used in case of need

Whilst we were employed about this, news was brought us by a native canoe that an English corvette and a ten-gun brig were in the river and were searching out every nook and cranny, in search of pirates and slavers, and that they might be expected up at the place we were lying the

if we should ever visit the place again.

Warner, Wilmshurst and myself upon this held a council of war. Both of them knew the Congo well and all the creeks and channels, and considered it would be more dangerous to try and ship down the river upnoticed than to wait for the arrival of our enemies abreast of us; indeed, it might chance they would pass our anchorage without seeing us, when we would be sure to be able to make our escape unmolested.

now proposed to lay them a trap by placing several casks of powder on board the Caterina and laying a match which we could fire when we started. Perhaps the English would board ber before she blew up and go up with her; if not, the explosion would attract them to the spot, by which time we should be miles away.

The plan was no sooner proposed than it was adopted. The Lucy Bates and Alligator were both hove short, gatis swayed up and sails secured with split yarus, so that not a moment should be lost when the time arrived to get under way; and the Catarina was, to outward appearance, similarly prepared, and the powder placed in some of her water casks, and a piece of match led through others, so that it would be as difficult to trace as possible.

These preparations were scarcely finished before the sun set, and as is the case in tropical climates, it became almost immediately dark. Secure that the English ships would not risk cruising about in the dangerous, unsurveyed waters of the Congo at night, we soon turned in, exception anchor watch, which with the vessels lying

at short stay was absolutely necessary. To some extent, we had reckened without our hosts. At a little after 4 o'clock a tornado which had been brewing for some time burst upon us, and unless we had veered very smartly both the schooners would have been driven up among the mangroves. As it was, the Catarina, from whom all hands-save a couple who had been left to fire the match when the signal was given-was forced ashore at the entrance of the creek which led up to the

destroyed barracoon. Though it blows hard while it lasts, a tornado is soon finished, and by daylight all trace of the storm, except the Santa Catarina lying stranded on the shore, had passed away. We soon were again ready for departure, our keenest sighted men being at the mastheads, which were disguised with branches of trees, to keep a sharp lookout on the doings of the English

About 9 o'clock the man at the mainmasthead of the Alligator hailed to say he could see the royals of the two vessels, which were coming up stream before a fair light breeze, but hardly were the words out of his mouth than we heard the sound of oars, the regular man-of-war stroke. and two minutes later, round a point covered with mangroves, appeared seven boats, two of which carried carronades in their bows, the crews of which as they caught sight of us gave vent to their feelings with a single short cheer, and then, bending to their oars with a will,

Meaning really savage people.

dashed straight at us. We were fairly surprised, as I had never dreamed that three well-equipped and armed vessels, such as the Alligator, Lucy Bates and the Santa Catarina were, would have been at-tacked in open boats. I had not calculated upon the bravery and dash of British naval officers and British seamen. Fortunately "Senor Souza has been so delighted with | for me, the officer in command counted upon there being honor among thieves, and directed all his boats on the Lucy Bates.

which was nearest to him, meaning, doubt-

less, when he had settled with her to turn

his attention to the Alligator and Santa Catarina. This gave me an opportunity which I was not slow to avail myself of, for I quickly got a spring on my cable and veered away, so as to get my broadside to bear on the combatants, and opened fire on friend and foe at once. Three boats I sank in a couple of minutes and the others I disabled; the lieutenant who commanded, however, was a smart seaman, cut the Lucy Bates cable so as to let her drift down on top of us, but I was not to be caught in that way, and cut my cable and spring together, and the breeze by this having reached us made sail and giving another broadside kept away down stream, for a channel which my mate, Arthur Wilmshurst, knew of, which would enable us to gain the main channel of the river, below the English warships, and against the freshening sea breeze, I knew no square rigged ship could stand a chance with such a powerful

schooner as the Alligator. The Santa Catarina about this time blew up. What became of those who fired the train I know not, and the Lucy Bates being under no control ran on shore. Carefully piloted by Wilmshurst, and taking soundings as necessary, we made rapid progress, while we were glad to see the corvette and brig were standing up stream so as to reach the anchorage where we had been lying by the upper entrance, and I considered that most probably they knew nothing of the passage we intended to make use of, and thought that they had caught us in a trap without any chance of

"Round the next bend." said Wilmshurst, "and we shall be clear of these narrow channels, and your countrymen may whistle for us."

We were then passing within about fifty feet of the shore, and to round the bend we had to come still closer in, so close indeed that branches of the mangrove bushes swept against our sides, when from among them three boats dashed upon us and flung their crews upon our deck.

We were taken unawares and for a time discipline gave our adversaries an advantage over us, but in the end our superior numbers told and after ten minutes of sharp fighting we were masters of our ship, and those of our opponents who had not been killed or forced overboard were lying we now could lie our course out to sea

past Shark's point, and having seen all sail set and making sure that the two men-ofwar were no longer in sight, I went below to wash myself, prior to doing which I shared a bowl of punch with Wilmshurst,

for, indeed, fighting was thirsty work.

We soon made an offing from the coast and caught the trades, and were well on our way across the Atlantic before Wilmshurst came and asked me what I intended to do with the prisoners. "What prisoners?" I asked, for I confess that I had clean forgotten that we had any other prisoners aboard than the poor black wretches who filled our holds. "Why, those that came on board uninvited just as we were leaving the creek. They came on board against our will, and remained on board against their own.

I was staggered for a moment, for I knew if I let any of these men return to England it would be known that it was the Alligator which had escaped from the Congo, and that no pains would be spared to insure my capture, and that it would be sure to come out that I had not only been engaged in slaving (technically piracy), but also had been guilty of murder and actual piracy with regard to the Santa Catarina, and that when caught a short shrift and a long

After thinking a bit. I gave orders for them to be brought aft on the quarterdeck, and presently six men were brought, handcuffed together, under the guard of some of the biggest ruffians of my crew. As I turned toward them, one of them spoke, saying, "Ah! my lord, I don't think I was wrong when I said you'd have your throat cut or become a pirate as you were leaving Port Royal. I see you have preferred the

second alternative. Looking at the speaker, I recognized, though he was clad in rags and tatters, his head bound in a bloody clout, and that he was unshorn and haggard, the naval officer who had told me there wasn't a | me by knife, poison, or bullet you would do man among my crew, when I shipped | so. You suit me because you have money soon as I recognized him I knew that he I find you mean treachery to me that | tate terms to me. but at the same time I determined that, for a time at least, he should live as my guest; for I was getting tired of the life I was leading, without one single person with whom I could speak save Wilmshurst, and even his stories of slaving and worse-for now the mask was off he openly joked about piracies in which be had been engaged, and seemed to revel in the brutalities of which he had been a witness and in most of which he had Been an actor-began to pall upon me.

"An! my dear fellow," I said, "I must own appearances are against me. I did not want my throat cut, so gave in to this wild craise to the Congo, but I have had no active hand in it. I am only now restored to the command of the ship on the condition that I take her safely to the Havanua, where we ought to arrive in three weeks or thereabouts. I am sorry indeed that you have been so scurvily treated, but now you must be my guest until our arrival there, and your men shall be better treated than ever they have been in their lives before. Once at Havana l will arrange for your passage to Port Royal."

"You infernal blackguard, don't you think to hoodwink me with any of your lying yarns. Haven't we been told day after day that the skipper of the craft was an Englishman who was nicknamed the devil? And though I recognized the craft I thought you had been murdered and some renegate scoundrel had stolen the schooner. I wish to God, for your sake, it had been

I turned to Wilmshurst who was standing by me and asked if what I had said was not true. "Ay, every word you speak is as true as if you swore to it. Sure, I told you if you didn't come with us willingly you'd have to come with us unwillingly, and you consented, never dreaming what was going to happen. In the Congo I was in charge."

"I wish I could believe it to be true," said the Lieutenant. "True it 18," I said, "I give you my word of honor, and now I'll prove it. Wilmshurst, have those irons taken off and take Mr. Hawkshaw down in the saloon and give him clothes and a bath, and his men give them all they want, clothes, food and drink; rig up a screen in the port gangway where they may mess and sleep together; and hark ye, let none of our ruffians go near

them to tempt them to join us." In the saloon I knew Hawkshaw would find no one who spoke English, and could, therefore, learn nothing of what had passed, while, as for the blue-jackets, I trusted that unlimited food, tobacco and grog would lull any suspicion that they might have formed.

Wilmshurst soon returned, having provided Hawkshaw with all be wanted. He said. "What's in the wind now? I played up well, being all in the dark, but, for the life of me, I cannot fathom what you're after. One thing I know, and that is you intend no good to John Bull's pup."

"Oh," said I, yawning lazily, "I was getting tired and I wanted a little companionship; that's all-a little variety. I've heard so much about slaves and pirates I want now to know something about men-of-war and men-of-war's men.

"Well, I don't mind; but one thing-if

you let him go free we'll swing for this bus-

mess; as sure as he steps over the gangway a free man l'il put a bullet through his brain or a knife in his heart as he does so." "Can't you understand me yet? I never said he could go free it is necessary that neither he nor any one of his men lives to tell the tale of this cruise, meanwhile it amuses me to have him as a guest, and I am sure it is a great kindness to him to give | we want your new schooner, and if it were | him every possible luxury during the few

days he has to live,"

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A Great Detective's Story.



A man well known all over the world, and whose name is a terror to criminals and evil doers every-

where, is Robert Bruce, head and general superintendent of the great Bruce's American Detective Agency, which has its headquarters at 128 La Salle Street, Chicago. He says:

"I suffered from insomnia for eight years," he said, "but three bottles of Dr. Greene's Nervura blood and nerve remedy completely restored me. This remedy is worth its weight in gold. I would not be without it if it cost ten times as much not be without it if it cost ten times as much.

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We do not wonder at Mr. Bruce's enthusiasm.

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A Chapter from Life.

How many people there are who grow weak and tired in the spring without knowing why, do not sleep well nights, and get up mornings tired and unrefreshed; their head often aches or feels hadly,

unrefreshed; their head often aches or feels badly, their stomach, liver, or kidneys are affected, they have constipated bowels, and they feel nervous, depressed in mind and generally run down. Then it is that they realize the value of their lost health. So it was with Charles H. Stevens, Esq., of South Effingham, N. H., a man well known and highly honored in the Granite State.

"The facts are these," said Mr. Stevens. "I was about prostrated in health, extremely nervous, limbs stiff in the joints, my bowels were bloated badly, and my breathing was terrible. I could not stoop without almost losing my breath.

"In fact I was almost a complete wreck, and could "In fact I was almost a complete wreck, and could do but little work of any kind.

"I commenced to take Dr. Greene's Nervura blood



and nerve remedy, and at the end of one week I had lessened in girth about my bowels two inches and now my girth is five inches less, and I am able to do "I tell you, if it had not been for Dr. Greene's Nervura blood and nerve remedy I should have been

dead before this time, and I can therefore give this

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moment is your last in this world. "All right, we quite understand each other, but now for a few days we'll play at

being gentlemen. For four or five days things went on smoothly enough, and Hawkshaw seemed as if he was willing to believe the story had told him; but one evening when I came down below after seeing sail taken off, as it was threatening weather, I found him standing by the table in the saloon in a state of great excitement. "What lies have you been telling me? know now that you have been the insti-

gator of all the crimes that have been committed on board this floating hell." "Why, what is the matter?" "Matter enough. I should choke if I did not speak, you infernal villain, liar, murderer, pirate, slaver. Oh! that I should ever have met an Englishman who is such an infernal villain. Put me in irons again

"Oh! if that's all, your wishes are soon satisfied." I answered, touching a beil which stood on the table.

-murder me, do what you like, I'd sooner

die than stop another moment in your com-

The steward came quickly in answer to the summons, and in obedience to my orders called down Wilmshurst and six men. When they arrived I said to Hawkshaw, "You are tired of good living, and wish to be put in irons again; your wish shall be gratified at once, but I am afraid it will not be for long, for I can have no unwilling white passengers on board. I will give you till to-morrow morning to consider your position, and then you can either join us in our merry roving life or take a

passage overboard. "Join you, never," he said, and, seizing a knife, he rushed at me and would doubtless have stabbed me to the heart, but was prevented by the men I had ordered down. After a short struggle he was overpowered and disarmed, and carried up on deck by Wilmshurst and the men he had brought down with him.

Left alone, I was seized by a revulsion of feeling. Should this gallant young officer dief What should he die for? Because he was brave and honorable? Some ideas of honor came back to my smirched and blackened soul, and I determined, come what might, to save his life.

and that of his brave companions, upon whom all the temptations that had been lavished by Wilmshurst and a few English and Americans, who were among our gang, had failed to have any effect, and who, one and all, refused to cast in their lot with us.

While I was moodily thinking of how ! had severed myself from all possibility of a Davy Jones's locker, and did his best that life in England, and from occupying that | you should go there with him. But there, position to which my birth and fortune entitled me, Wilmshurst returned and said to me, "I guess we've had a pretty tough job, but we've got all John Bull's serpents in trons again, and now Devil come up and see them walk the plank, I've got it all ready rigged and greased, and the whole gang toeing a line ready for the order to

address me so familiarly, nor in such an in- | as quiet as mice. I can't understand how | orange blossoms and cooled by the splashsolent tone; true, he had threatened me | it is, but I believe they're fond of you. once, but that, in such a life as ours, was , Fond of the Devil! Ha! ha!" nothing. I felt insulted and enraged, and said, "Who gave you orders to have the plank rigged? I'll let you know I'm master

"Master, if you like. Captain, skipper, boss-but only so long as I choose. The crew know you, and for their own safety they kept a watch on you, and I am with them. We want the use of your money, and not that without you being alive we could | be, and thought perchance in another world | ly moved me. get neither, you'd have gone to Davy her gentle spirit might even now be griev-

no heart, and if it suited you to get rid of | hitherto everything and every one had given way to my every whim and fancy. and here was one whom I considered the them, who did not deserve hanging. As | and care for no one. Bear this in mind, if | most obedient of my slaves daring to dic-

"Not to-night," I said. "I must consider the matter; besides, for my revenge on Hawkshaw, simple drowning is far too small a thing to satisfy it; let me think for the night, and I will plan an ending for him which will outdo the imaginings of the most ferocious of our crew." This. I said, trusting during the night to hit upon some plan by which I might possibly save the lives of the prisoners; but now I found I was no longer captain of my own ship. Partly out of obstinacy, and partly, I hope, from a small remnant of good in me, I had become as intent on saving the life of Hawkshaw as half an hour before I had been keen upon compassing his death. "Well, if you can plan some amusement for the lads I don't mind; but mind, no

treachery and no backing down.' Wilmshurst left me, and alone I began to realize, though but faintly indeed, what a position I had placed myself in and how every way to escape was barred. If I saved Hawkshaw he would, and rightly too, denounce me, and there would be no portion of the world where I could be safe from the British navy. If I allowed him to be murdered I fell more and more into the power of Wilmshurst, who, now that he had me completely in his power, began to remove the mask of complete subservience to my every thought and wish which he

Harassed by conflicting emotions I did what I had never done in all my life before, I called for brandy and gulped down glass after glass of the fiery spirit to try and drown thought. I have faint remembrances of what occurred that night, a sort of night mare recollection of a fierce struggle, of a stunning crash and then complete oblivion.

When next I recovered consciousness. was in my cot, slung under a screen on the quarter deck, my head was bandaged and aching as if it would split, and close by my side was standing Wilmshurst. "Ah! come round at last," he said; "I thought you were going to give us the slip,

but now you are conscious again it will soon be well with you." So completely had my memory gone from me that all recollection of the voyage to the Congo was for the time wiped away, | and I asked Wilmshurst what was the mat-

ter and where we were. "Where? Why, on board the Alligator; nothing the matter but a cargo of niggers on board, and Havana within two days' sail of us.

This gave me a clew to some part of what I had forgotten. "Where's Hawkshaw!" I asked. "Hawkshaw, the Englishman? Why,

what are you talking about! He's gone to you are still weak, and there's no use exciting you; when you are well enough I'll spin you the varn, and you'll be more amused by it than any one else. May be there'll be no need to spin it, for as you get better your memory will come back to you. Now the best thing you can do is to drink this | and that while we were together we were soup and go to sleep again. Your blackguards forward have some human feelings Never before had Wilmshurst dared to left, for while you've been ill they've been shaded portico, heavy with the scent of I drank the soup which he offered me,

and then lay in my cot trying to think and to remember what had occurred; and then there came back to my mind memories of my mother, and thoughts of her love and kindness, and how one touch of her soft, cool hand would still the throbbing of my brow. Then I thought how astonished she would be to see her son a slaver and a pirate, and from that to how grieved she would "That's true enough, but mind I know | Jones's locker long ago. Come now en deck | ing for my sins. The thoughts were too |

many years I went.

As I wept I also thought, and made resolutions for the future that never again would I go in for slaying and piracy, but aboard to a feast, which was intended to also so utterly was my mind darkened, my | serve the double purpose of celebrating my ing good, but only of leading a life of idle | new acquisition. Among the party was a pleasure and self-indulgence.

Dreaming thus, I fell asleep again, and when I again awoke I felt much better, and by the time we reached Havana I was able to leave my cot and walk the deck, though but feebly, it is true.

Wilmshurst still refused to tell me the whole story of how I had received my injury and how Hawkshaw and his men had met their end. He said somehow they had possessed themselves of handspikes, a cutlass or two, and three or four tomahawks, and had made a sudden attack on the watch on deck; that I had come up, and Hawkshaw had at once singled me out and nearly killed me, but that in the end he and his shipmates had been all killed. "There are details," Wilmshurst said, "to say which will be interesting, and I will tell you when you are well." But what the true story was I never knew. At the Havana I was welcomed by my old boon companions, and one of them took me to live with him in his house, and 'twas there I met Francisca.

PART III.

Francisca was my host's only sister, fair as she was good, and good as she was beautiful. For many days after I had landed I suffered from an access of fever, and hovered between life and death. During this time I was conscious of some one greatly aiding me, and in my confused state got an idea in my head that the fair figure at my side was my mother's spirit, something white, filmy, mysterious. At last the fever abated and my senses became clearer, and I found that the mysterious attendant was not my mother's spirit from the other world, but one who was as traly an angel as an inhabitant of heaven-a lovely girl of nineteen-Francisca, the sister of my host, Don Diego Ximones. How he, knowing what I had been and what my character was, had ever permitted his sister to attend on me, know not: perchance he thought that I had no chance of recovery, and that no harm could come of her attendance on me, as I would die before her fancy could become entrapped. Afterwards, during my convalescence, he was often away gambling, drinking, leading the same wild life I myself had led when at the Havana before, and little recking what had occurred during his absence from home, for, partly by carelessness and partly by custom, grown out of Francisca's having nursed me when helpiess, he had left us much in each other's company. True, Francisca had an old duenna-poor girl, she was motherless-but gold caused her to be blind, and Francisca and I learned to think that there were no other persons on earth but our two selves, not on earth but in heaven. Oh! those days of convalescence in the

ing fountain in the center, with my loved one sitting by me, her hand locked in mine! I often wonder why such a sinner as I had been was allowed, even though it were but for a brief space of time, to experience such bliss here on earth, such a foretaste of

heaven. What became of the Alligator and Wilmshurst. I scarcely recked, and even the news that the yacht I had ordered from England had, in obedience to orders I had sent to Port Royal, arrived at the Havans, scarce-

Francisca, however, said she wished much to see the Buccaneer, for so my new

you now; I know you have no honor and | and see the fun." I own I was staggered; | much for me, and for the first time for | craft was fitly named, and accordingly we made up a perty to go on board and examine. Don Diego and some of his friends, some ladies and their duennas were bidden Jesuit priest, a relation of Don Diego, who was ever haunting his house and of whom

> I instinctively felt a dislike, but whom I regarded as being of no more importance than a tame tom cat.

> When we arrived at the quay in our jingling, clattering volantes, we found boats manned by men of the Buccaneer who were dressed in the height of nautical dandyism, with blue and white striped shirts, white trousers and red silk saches round their wasts, in which were stuck silver-mounted pistols and daggers, a more picturesque looking lot of blackguards I never saw, but among them I saw many of the Alligators, for Wilmshurst, to whom I had given carte blanche as to discharging and shipping men, had got rid of the English skipper and crew who had brought the Buccaneer out from England and had transferred to her those of the Alligator whom he most affected, and filled up the complement with as big a set of picaroons as they. This gave me a shock, for I thought how easily one of these men could blast me in the eyes of Francisca. That a man should gamble and lead a dissipated life, the habits of her brother and his companions had taught her to regard as natural and becoming, but that I should be a thief and a murderer would. I know, fill her soul with sorrow and grief. Indeed, she had aiready won from me a promise that I never again would go to the coast of Africa for slaves. "Dearest," she said, "we must have slaves, and some must go and fetch them; so we must have meat to eat and butchers must kill the poor sheep and oxen, but you would not be a butcher, would you!" I had long been filled with loathing of the wretched traffic and no pleading from Francisca was needed to cause me to give the required promise. My dream was to escape from all vile surroundings, and in the Buccaneer to seek some island where Francisca and I could live out together an ideal life of love and contentment. Vain, blind mortal, to think that such could be my lot after the sins I had committed.

> We divided ourselves among the various boats, and soon were on board the Buccaneer, where we were received by Wilms. hurst, who had constituted himself the skipper, and who wore a gorgeous, fancy uniform which saited his handsome though

> evil face most admirably. All my quests were lost in admiration at the beauty of my new vessel, of her size, her accommodation, the luxury of her saloons and cabins, and the perfection and efficiency of her various fittings. After examining her in every nook and corner, we were served with an exquisite luncheon, during which a band and the choir of one of the churches, of which there are so many in the Havana, played and sang for our

> Francisca and I soon wearied of being alone though in a crowd, for unless we were the only two we felt as if we were separated; but each was ever all the company the other required, and, glancing one at the other, we soon shipped down from the crowded deck to examine more at our leisure the cabins which we intended should ere long be the scene of our wedded

I was showing her one of the cabine which I intended should be fitted as her boudoir, and was saying, "Sweetest one, we will have this hung with pale blue silk, and here, while you play your guitar, I will he at your feet and worship you." "Oh, my love, my life, then we snall be

happy," and then our lips met in one long. fond kiss. [To Be Concluded.]

Prof. Felix L. Oswald predicts this country will have 300,000,000 inhabitants in 1903